LAWS

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

BRISTOL INSTITUTION,

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF

Science, Literature, and the Arts:

WITH THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL MEETING

Of March 31, 1823,

AND

THE REPORT

OF THE

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE.

Bristol:

PRINTED BY RICHARD SHORT, 35, BRIDGE-STREET.

1825.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL MEETING OF PROPRIETORS,

Held November 25, 1823.

The Committee empowered by the general body of Subscribers to provide a Building for Philosophical and Literary purposes, having made the requisite arrangements for carrying into effect the object intrusted to them, the first stone of the present edifice was laid by W. Fripp, Jun. Esq., then Mayor of Bristol, on the 29th of February, 1820. Before the close of the year 1822, the Lecture Room was ready for use, and other parts of the erection were in considerable forwardness; and the Building Committee summoned a General Meeting of the Proprietors, which was held on the 25th of November, 1822, the Very Rev. Dr. Beeke, Dean of Bristol, in the Chair.

The Report of the Building Committee having been presented, approved, and ordered to be printed, the thanks of the Meeting were given to them, for the manner in which they had so far performed the duties confided in them; and they were requested to continue their services till all the other parts of this noble erection should be completed.

A Provisional Committee was then appointed, to draw up a plan for carrying into effect the general purposes of the establishment, and to form rules for its future conduct; and they were empowered to take whatever means

they might judge necessary, to procure the delivery of Lectures during the Winter, on such arrangements as they might deem best adapted to promote the primary objects of the Institution. The Provisional Committee were requested to proceed with all convenient speed to the completion of the principal object for which they were appointed; and to report their progress at a General Meeting of Shareholders, to be summoned at the earliest possible period, not later than the 1st of May, 1823.

The thanks of the Meeting were then given "to the Very Reverend the Dean, for the zeal and ability displayed by him in promoting the objects of this Association, and for his conduct in the Chair."

The following extracts from the Report of the Building Committee will supply a connected view of their object, and the measures they have taken to carry it into effect.

"By the resolutions of the last General Meeting of Subscribers, which have just been read, full power, as you will have observed, was vested in your Committee, either to purchase any premises capable of being applied to the purposes of the proposed Institution, or to buy a plot of ground, and erect upon it a suitable edifice, with authority to appropriate the whole or any part of the funds arising out of the shares taken by Subscribers, to either of these purposes.

"After long and anxious inquiry, it was found that the erection of a new building could alone realize the object of your intentions.

"The ground upon which the building stands, in which the Committee have now the honour to address you, was accordingly purchased for the sum of £646. 11s. 7d. including the costs of conveyance.

"Its site is generally allowed to be particularly commodious and accessible; but the situation and nature of the ground obviously opposed great obstacles to the production of architectural symmetry and effect. Your Committee trust that your suffrage will confirm their opinion, that this edifice is not only adapted with singular ingenuity to the accidents of the ground, but that it will materially contribute as a beautiful object to the ornament of the City.

"In the proportions of the Portico, you will recognise rather a Grecian model than the Roman of Tivoli, from which the general outline is doubtlessly taken. It is scarcely needful to remark, that the capitals of the columns are of that species of Corinthian, which prevailed in the Temple of Apollo at Phigalia, an edifice which belongs to a truly classical epoch.

"A piece of sculpture in *alto relievo* will shortly be added to the portico from the chisel of Mr. Bayly. It will be a donation from himself to the Institution. The very handsome manner in which this distinguished Artist expressed a wish of exerting his talents, for the embellishment of a building which he foresaw would reflect honour on his native city, is a gratifying proof of his attachment to it; and your Committee are persuaded, that the work when completed will be such as justly to merit your grateful acknowledgments.

"The internal accommodations of the building have been so arranged, as to provide for every important object which comes within the scope of a Philosophical and Literary Institution;—including a Room, of noble dimensions and finely proportioned, which may hereafter be converted into a Library, or be employed for any other purposes which the body of Proprietors may direct."

"Though your Committee are aware that it is scarcely within the scope of their duties to anticipate any part of the arrangements which may hereafter be adopted, with the view of giving full effect to the objects of the Institution, yet they cannot forbear to express their confident persuasion, grounded upon facts which have come to their knowledge that were one of the rooms to be fitted up as a Museum, it would quickly be enriched by liberal contributions."

After laying before the Proprietors an abstract of the Treasurer's Accounts, the Building Committee express their full expectation that the public spirit manifested in the erection of the edifice, would carry into execution its important purposes; and they thus conclude.

"A general thirst for improvement, a rapid march of the human mind towards higher attainments in all departments of knowledge, is the honourable distinction of the æra in which we live. No possible reason can be conceived why the inhabitants of this great and opulent city should be left behind in this career, by any of the provincial cities of the empire. Bristol has no counteracting spell to break, but that which she has imposed upon herself, by neglecting to associate the talents, the acquirements, and the energies of her citizens for these important objects, within the uniting bond of an Institution like the present. Such Societies, by becoming the repositories of important facts, collected from all quarters, and by the frequent communication of ideas which they produce between individuals engaged in kindred pursuits, furnish a powerful stimulus to the exertions of intellect, and maintain habits of inquiry and perseverance. It will ever be a grateful reflection to your Committee, that it has fallen to their lot to act as your

pioneers in preparing the way, which is to conduct to results thus important; and they beg to assure you, that they are prepared to take their full part with you in all the measures which may be deemed necessary for their final and successful accomplishment."

Provisional Committee.

The Right Worshipful JAMES GEORGE, Mayor.

The Very Rev. Dr. HENRY BEEKE, Dean.

J. AMES, Jun.
* A. H. BATTERSBY
* RICHARD BRIGHT
* ROBERT BRUCE, Sen.
* HENRY BROWNE
* J. CAVE
* A. CARRICK, M. D.
Rev. W. D. CONYBEARE
E. R. CLAYFIELD
W. H. CLAYFIELD
* M. H. CASTLE
Rev. LANT CARPENTER, LL. D.
* THOS. DANIEL. Alderman
H. T. DELA BECHE
* GEORGE DAUBENY
* Rev J. EDEN
E. L. FOX, M. D.
GEORGE FISHER
CHRISTOPHER GEORGE
* GEORGE GIBBS
Rev. J. J. GOODENOUGH, D. D.
* J. S. HARFORD
* F. C. HUSENBETH
* JOHN HAYTHORNE, Alderman
* E. KENTISH, M. D.
W. P. LUNELL
* SAMUEL LUNELL
J. C. PRICHARD, M. D.
* J. REYNOLDS
* J. E. STOCK, M. D.
* THOS. SANDERS
* J. N. SANDERS
* RICHARD SMITH
PHILIP VAUGHAN
Sir RICHARD VAUGHAN, Alderman
M. WRIGHT
* R. B. WARD
JAMES JOSEPH WHITCHURCH
ADMIRAL WOOLLEY

Those Gentlemen whose names are preceded by an Asterisk, were Members of the Building Committee, of which HENRY BROWNE, Esq. was TREASURER; and R. B. WARD, and SAMUEL LUNELL, Esqrs. were SECRETARIES.

REPORT

OF THE

PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE,

Read at the General Meeting of March 31st, 1823.

THE Provisional Committee, appointed at your last General Meeting, have now convened you, for the most important act in which, as Members of this Institution, you can participate,—that which may indeed be said to give a commencement to its existence, as a Body regularly organized—which is, to develope its designs, and to provide recognised and settled principles for its future management. At such a time, they feel it a duty not to detain you for a longer space than is unavoidably requisite, by their preliminary Report, from the actual and momentous business of the day.

It must be remembered, however, that the duties with which your Committee were charged had not reference to this great object alone; they were also directed to procure the delivery of Lectures, and thus endeavour to carry into immediate effect some of the primary purposes of the Institution. It is necessary, therefore, that they should render you an account of the steps taken by them in the discharge of this part of their functions.

They have first, then, to record the kind condescension of the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Oxford, through which your inaugural proceedings in this depart-

ment, have assumed a character of the first respectability; a precedent has been laid, calculated to operate with great advantage on similar arrangements for the future; and a degree of interest, which your Committee felt as most encouraging to their ulterior prospects, was evidently excited.

As objects of general literature and taste formed, no less than those of natural science, essential parts of your design, your Committee considered it desirable to procure, in the next place, a Course of Lectures of a more comprehensive character, and immediately connected with History and the Arts. Assuming public support as a fair criterion of merit, they may trust that the course thus provided has fully obtained that sanction.

Your Committee have further invited Mr. Davy, Professor of Chemistry in the Royal Cork Institution, to deliver a Course on Chemistry, which will commence in the middle of the month ensuing. His situation in one of the first Institutions, and the reputation he has there maintained, afford the fullest testimony in favour of this selection: it may also lead to an intercourse between the two Institutions, which may in many respects prove beneficial; and it is unnecessary to enlarge on the peculiar advantages enjoyed by an individual so nearly connected with the highest name in British Science.

In a previous Report, the Building Committee expressed their reliance that so soon as due arrangements were made for their reception, contributions would flow into the Museum; and it is most gratifying to the present Committee to announce what may almost be termed a premature realization of these expectations: for although it has not as yet been possible to make such arrangements, nor did any regular body exist which could be strictly considered

as authorized to receive contributions of this nature,—the liberal spirit which was anticipated has been evinced with an ardour not to be repressed; and many donations (some of them of considerable value) have been already made, and still more have been announced, towards the commencement of your Museum and collection of Maps and of Antiquities.

Among these, one donation requires particular and honourable mention, for which you are indebted to the munificence of the Architect, of whose taste the present building is a monument. This gentleman has presented a complete series of Casts from the Statues, which once ornamented the eastern and western pediments of the Panhellenium at Ægina, his own most interesting discovery. From the high intrinsic merit of their execution, as the unique relics of a peculiar stage of Grecian art, and of one of their earliest and most distinguished schools, (the probable date of the originals being anterior to the year B. C. 520, and preceding, therefore, the æra of Phidias,) and above all as affording the only complete and certain example extant, which can enable us to form a judgment of the general design and grouping of those great historical compositions of statuary with which the Greeks enriched the pediments of their temples,—the importance of these casts will be very considerable, both as models to the artist, and as illustrating the progress of sculpture. The two groups, each consisting of the combination of many separate figures, will form splendid decorations to your apartments. They have been already, under the directions of B. H. Bright, Esq. and Mr. Cockerell's correspondents at Rome, packed up with the greatest care in that City, and wait the earliest opportunity for their conveyance to England.

In conjunction with the Building Committee, your Provisional Committee have bestowed particular attention to placing the Laboratory of your Institution in such a state as may render it subservient to Lectures in Chemistry, and general experiments in that science; and it will already be found very complete for all the uses to which it is likely to be applied. The general progress in the interior of the Building has also been such, that the Reading Rooms may now shortly be opened, and the Museum and Exhibition Room applied to the respective purposes before the close of the summer.

Since the preceding Meeting many new Subscribers have been added to your list; and among them your Committee notice, with particular gratification, the names of the Right Hon. Lord Grenville, High Steward of Bristol, and the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

Your Committee have lastly to advert to the most important of the charges imposed upon them—"the provision of a plan for carrying into effect the general purposes of your Establishment, and the formation of Rules for its future conduct." The result of their deliberations, in their endeavour to fulfil this duty, is now about to abide the test of that judgment to pronounce which you are here convened. The propositions themselves, which are immediately to be submitted to you, will sufficiently explain the principles by which they have been dictated; a rapid survey of their general bearing is all, therefore, which can be required in this place.

Recurring to the declarations of your general purposes, as placed on record in your previous Resolutions, it has appeared to your Committee, that, in order to give them full effect, it will be necessary, in the first place, formally

to establish, as arising from your own body, and forming its natural consummation, an Institution dedicated to the promotion of Science and Literature, and to make over the use of the Building expressly and fully to the purposes of that Institution.

The previous designation of your various apartments, to which your adoption of the last Report had given, in some degree, at least, your sanction, sufficiently indicated the various branches of your Institution, which were generally contemplated; for the regulation of these, your Committee have endeavoured to provide by short and simple rules. They have also recognised a Society for Philosophical and Literary Information and Discussion, as forming an essential and prominent feature of the design.

On these subjects they have studied to avoid the extreme of legislating over much; and while they have endeavoured to trace out all the broad and general principles, have left those questions of detail, which are always best provided for as they arise, in the hands of the Committee and Sub-Committees who may be appointed for that purpose.

With regard to management, the great principles pursued have been such as appear best adapted to conciliate and maintain public confidence—the appointment of a large Committee; and the annual renovation of a portion of that Committee, by a third of its members going out in rotation, not to be re-eligible in the same year: the general Committee to be divided into smaller Sub-Committees, charged with the special superintendance of the various particular departments.

In the financial provisions proposed, your Committee have relied, that the spirit which has raised and consecrated to Science the walls within which we are now

assembled, will not now suffer them to fall into ruin, or to stand unoccupied and useless, as a burthen and reproach, instead as an ornament to a city which claims to be one of the first in the empire, and which has ever been distinguished by the most extended munificence. It is therefore proposed, that each Proprietor of the Building, wishing to become a Member of the Institution now to be formed, and to be entitled as such to participate in its advantages, shall contribute annually to its support. It is obvious that the efficiency of the Institution must entirely depend on the number of these subscribing Members; and your Committee confidently hope, that the whole body of the present Shareholders will at once come forward, and establish the design on a secure basis, by enrolling their names on this list. The advantages which it is proposed to attach to this subscription, are commensurate with the several departments of the Institution, and will be sufficiently explained in the particular regulations.

It is proposed, that none but those who actually are Proprietors, or who shall become such by the purchase of a share, shall be admitted as Members.

As an immediate expense must be incured in providing Philosophical Apparatus, and in fitting up the Museum, your Committee have proposed the opening separate subscriptions for these specific purposes; and desire most earnestly to recommend these objects to the attention of those who are inclined to patronise the undertaking.

PROCEEDINGS

OF A

General Meeting of the Subscribers,

TOWARDS THE ERECTION OF A BUILDING

For Philosophical and Literary Purposes.

At a Meeting of the Subscribers towards the erection of a Building for Philosophical and Literary Purposes, held on Monday, the 31st day of March, 1823, in the Lecture Room of the said Building, summoned in pursuance of the Resolutions of the 31st day of January, 1810, and of another General Meeting of the said Subscribers, held on the 25th day of November last, for the purpose of receiving and taking into consideration the Report of the Committee appointed at the last General Meeting, of forming an Institution for Philosophical and Literary Purposes, of appropriating the Building to the objects of such Institution, and of providing Rules and Regulations for its Government;

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL

JAMES GEORGE, Esq. Mayor of Bristol,

IN THE CHAIR.

The Notice by which this Meeting was called, the Resolutions of the said General Meetings, and the

Report of the Provisional Committee having been read;—

Resolved Unanimously,

1. That an Institution be established for the advancement of Science, Literature, and the Fine Arts.

2. That the said Institution shall consist exclusively of such Subscribers or Proprietors of Shares in this Building, as shall be willing to pay an Annual Contribution towards the purposes of the Institution, subject to the Rules and Regulations which shall be from time to time enacted for the establishment and government of such Institution.

3. That this Building be and the same is hereby appropriated, solely to the use of the said Institution, during its continuance, for the purposes aforesaid, with power for the Members, at a General Meeting, to admit any other Society having the same general object in view, to the use of such parts as are not required for the particular purposes of this Institution.

4. That the same shall be forthwith conveyed to the following persons, viz.—

The Right Worshipful James George, Esq. Mayor of Bristol; the Very Rev. Dr. Henry Beeke, Dean of Bristol; Richard Bright, Henry Bright, M. P., Abraham Gray Harford Battersby, Henry Browne, Esqrs.; the Rev. Lant Carpenter, LL. D.; Stephen Cave, John Cave, Daniel Cave, Edward Rolle Clayfield, Esqrs.; the Rev. William Daniel Conybeare; Thomas Daniel, Henry Thomas Dela Beche, Esqrs.; the Rev. John Eden; George Fisher, George Gibbs, John Scandret Harford, William Henry Harford, John Haythorne, William Peter Lunell,

Philip John Miles, M. P., Philip Protheroe, Joseph Reynolds, John Naish Sanders, Thomas Sanders, Esqrs.; and Sir Richard Vaughan,

For a term of 5000 years, upon trust for themselves and the several other Subscribers to the said Building, and their respective Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, and others the future Proprietors for the time being of Shares in the said Building and Premises, and their respective Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, in the several Shares in which all such parties respectively are and shall be entitled thereto, subject nevertheless to be applied to the purposes of the said Institution during its continuance, and to the Rules, Regulations, and Bye-Laws, from time to time subsisting in regard to the said Institution, and to a provision for the sale and disposition of the said Premises, in the event of a dissolution of the said Society, and to all other usual provisions in settlements of a similar nature.

5. That when the above-named Trustees, and the succeeding Trustees for the time being, shall be reduced to five, the vacancies shall be supplied at a General Meeting of the Members of such Institution, and the Building and Premises conveyed to such new Trustees, in conjunction with the remaining Trustees accordingly.

6. That the Trustees shall permit the said Building and Premises, to be used and occupied for such purposes as the major part of the Committee of the Members of such Institution for the time being present at any Meeting shall direct, and shall do all such acts as shall from time to time be requisite to give full effect to such directions, without any responsibility in respect of any thing they may do by virtue thereof.

7. That subject to these Trusts, the property in the said Building and Premises shall be held in Trust for the several Subscribers, as well original as future, their Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, according to the number of Shares which they shall have taken, or may hereafter take therein; such Shares to be transmissible and transferable, as personal estate.

8. That the future expenditure in the completion and fitting up of the Building, shall be subject to the control and direction of a Sub-Committee of the proposed Institution, of which such of the Building-Committee as shall become Subscribers to the Institution shall be Members, and that any surplus shall be paid over to the Treasurer, and be applied to the general purposes of the Institution.

9. That the said Institution shall comprise within its design the Objects and be governed by the Laws and Regulations following.

JAMES GEORGE, Chairman.

DESIGN AND OBJECTS.

The Design of the Bristol Institution is to promote the advancement of Science, Literature, and the Arts.

Its views are directed to the following Objects:

I.—The diffusion of useful knowledge by means of Lectures and Experiments.

II.—The provision of a Philosophical Apparatus for the use of the Lecturers, and of such Members as may be desirous of prosecuting scientific inquiries.

III.—The formation of a Museum for objects of Natural History, including Zoology, Comparative Anatomy, Botany, Geology, &c.

IV.—The establishment of Reading Rooms, where the leading Journals of Science, foreign and domestic, and other Periodical Publications and Pamphlets, shall be provided for the use of the Members.

V.—The exhibition of Pictures, Statues, Casts, and other objects of the Fine Arts, and of Antiquities; also of Machines and Models in the useful Arts; and the preservation of such as may be presented to or deposited with the Institution.

VI.—The formation of a Society for the culture of Science and Literature.

N. B. The present Edition of the Laws and Regulations of the Institution, includes the additions and other alterations made at the Special General Meeting, held on the 5th of August, 1824, and at the Second Annual Meeting, on the 10th of February, 1825. (See Report of the Second Annual Meeting, p. 22—24, and p. 16.) The sections marked * were added at the Special Meeting. In the sections marked †, *alterations* were made at that Meeting. And in the sections marked ‡, *alterations* were made at the Annual Meeting.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

CHAPTER I.

MEMBERS AND PROPRIETORS:

Their Rights, Privileges, and Liabilities.

1.

Every present Proprietor of a Share in the Building,* whether by original Subscription, Gift, or Purchase, as well as all persons who shall subscribe for the Shares next hereinafter directed to be created; and such other Persons as shall be admitted under the Regulations hereinafter mentioned, shall be entitled to become Members of the Institution.

2.

So many additional Shares in the Building, at Twenty-five Pounds each, shall be created, as will make the present number of Shares equal to six hundred in the whole; the Subscribers for which shall be entitled to become Members of the Institution: and the Committee shall have

* This part of the first law respects the period of the General Meeting of the 31st of March, 1823.

power to permit any person to become a Member who shall be entitled by transfer to a Share in the Building, in respect of which no person shall have been previously admitted; or on payment of a premium on admission of Thirty Pounds at the least.

3.

Every Proprietor of a Share, shall, when four hundred and eighty Shares shall have been taken, or such less number as may be sufficient to discharge the debts now due from the Building Fund, have the privilege, in respect of each such Share, being unoccupied, of nominating under his hand writing, any person for the approbation of the Committee as an Annual Subscriber; such Nominee when admitted to be entitled, on signing the Rules and Regulations, and on payment of the Annual Subscription, to all the privileges, and to be subject to all the corresponding liabilities, of a Member, except that he shall not be entitled to take any part in the management of the affairs of the Institution.

4.

Every Member shall contribute a Subscription of Two Guineas annually, towards payment of the expenses of the Institution, which shall become due on the 1st of January in each year.

5.

The present payment of Twenty-five Guineas shall be deemed equivalent to an Annual Subscription for Life.

6.

Every Member shall subscribe the Laws and Regulations of the Institution, and shall engage in all things to conform thereto.

7.

No Person, other than such as under the first and second sections are entitled to that privilege, shall be admitted to be a Member of the Institution, without the concurrence of the Committee for the time being.

8.

All Furniture, Apparatus, Books, and other Property which shall be purchased for the use of the Institution, shall be bought in the names of the Trustees of the Building, and shall be deemed to belong to them at law, but shall be held by them upon trust for the benefit of the Members.

9.

Every Member who has paid his Annual Subscription, shall have free admission to all parts of the Institution, (except to the Lecture Room and Exhibition Room when money is taken,) and shall have the power of giving admission to

Strangers, by a written or personal introduction; subject in both cases to the special Regulations hereafter to be appointed for each department of the Institution. And, subject to the same Regulations, he shall have the power of introducing the members of his Family to the Museum: and also to the Exhibition Room, except when money is taken.

10.‡

Arrangements shall be made with the Lecturers, who are invited or allowed to deliver Lectures in the Institution, by which every Member who has paid the Annual Subscription, shall, on subscribing to the Course, in addition to the advantages which such subscription gives to those who are not Members, be furnished with a Member's Privilege Ticket, transferable to any one of his Family residing with him, or to any Lady or Minor.

11.

Whenever Gentlemen connected with the Institution, or others, shall deliver gratuitous Lectures, each Member shall have a transferable Ticket of Admission for every unoccupied Share he holds.

12.*

Every Member of the Institution engages to continue the payment of the Annual Subscription

until he ceases to be a Member, either by death, or by the sale or other disposition of his Share, or by giving written notice to the Curator, between the 24th day of June and the 29th day of September, of his intention to discontinue his Subscription at the termination of the current year; in which last case he shall be at liberty again to become a Member, on the payment of a moiety of the Annual Subscription for every year subsequent to the period at which he shall have so retired from the Institution, and during which his Share therein may have been unoccupied by a Nominee. The Curator shall keep a Register of all Notices given him by the Members of their intention to discontinue their Subscriptions, and he shall distinguish therein the time when each such Notice was delivered to him.

13.*

No person shall be entitled to become a Member of the Institution, either by virtue of a Transfer or Bequest of any share therein, or as the Representative of any deceased Member,—neither shall any Member, holding any Share or Shares therein, be entitled to the privilege of Nomination, in respect of any share,—until payment shall have been made of a sum equal to one half of the Arrears of the Annual Subscription due in respect of such Share, from the period when such Subscription shall have been discontinued.

And no Proprietor of any Share in the Building, in respect of which no Member has been admitted, whether obtained by original Subscription or otherwise, except as after stated, shall, after the 1st day of January, 1826, be entitled to become a Member of the Institution, or to appoint a Nominee in respect of any such Share, without payment having been made of a sum equal to one moiety of the Annual Subscription from that day to the time of his becoming a Member, or of such appointment being made, as well as for every subsequent year in which such Share shall be unoccupied: Except that the Proprietors of surplus Shares in the Building, (in respect of which no Members have been admitted,) being Members of the Institution, and contributing to its support, shall not be liable for the payment of the moiety of the Annual Subscription for those years in which their surplus Shares as aforesaid, may be unoccupied by Nominees: And except that the Proprietors of two or more such Shares in the Building, not being Members of the Institution, shall not be subject in any one year to the payment as aforesaid, but upon one such Share only: And except also, that all such Shares in the Building, transferred by Members of the Institution, contributing to its support, shall entitle the Transferrees to the privilege of becoming Members of the Institution, or of appointing Nominees, and shall be exempt from the payment

of the moiety of the Annual Subscription for non-occupancy, until the first day of January next succeeding the date of such transfer.

The Registration of the Transfer of a Share shall not be made by the Committee until it has been ascertained that no Subscription, or other pecuniary claim, be due to the Institution in respect thereof.

14.*

The following Forms shall be used for Certificates of Shares in the Building, and for Certificates of Shares in the Institution.

Form of a Certificate of a Share in the Building.

BRISTOL

BUILDING ERECTED AND APPROPRIATED FOR PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY PURPOSES.

No.

We the undersigned hereby certify that

stands registered in the List of the Proprietors of Shares in this Building, as Proprietor of the Share numbered as above, and that he hath executed the Deed of Settlement declaring the Trusts on which the Building is held.

Given under our hands, this day of 182

Treasurer.

Secretary.

Form of a Certificate of a Share in the Institution.

BRISTOL INSTITUTION,

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF

SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS.

[Engraving of the Bas Relief.]

No.

We the undersigned hereby certify that

is inscribed in the Register of this Institution, as the Proprietor of the Share numbered as above, and hath subscribed the Rules and Regulations of the Institution, engaging in all things to conform thereto.

Given under our hands, this day of 182

Vice-President.

Treasurer.

Secretary.

These Certificates shall be printed in duplicate and bound up, one part to be retained and preserved amongst the Records of the Institution; and when any Share in the Building is first used as the qualification of any person to become a Member of the Institution, a note recording that circumstance shall be made on the Certificate of the said Share in the Building.

CHAPTER II.

DONORS.

1.

All pecuniary Donations to the Institution shall be inscribed in a Vellum Book; and the Donation of Fifty Guineas or upwards by any Person, not a Shareholder, shall entitle the Donor to all the privileges and advantages of the Institution for life.

2.

A General Record shall be kept of all other Donations and Deposits, in addition to the separate Records hereafter mentioned.

CHAPTER III.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

1.

The General Regulation of the Institution in conformity with its Objects and with the Laws appointed for its Government, shall be vested in a Committee, consisting of a President, Six Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Secretary of Finance, and Twenty-seven other Members, elected by the Members at their Annual Meetings, together with an Honorary Secretary to be elected by the

Committee at their Meeting on the first Thursday after the Annual Meeting.

2.

The Mayor of Bristol, the Representatives of the City in Parliament, and all Noblemen, if Members of the Institution, shall be Honorary Vice-Presidents.

3.

The ordinary Members of the Committee to be chosen by the Members at their first Annual Meeting, shall be continued in office for two years; after which time, so many shall annually retire as shall be sufficient to make the number of vacancies equal to nine. The order in which the Members of the first Committee shall retire, shall be determined by lot; subsequently they shall retire by rotation. The Members so retiring to be re-eligible, except in cases of a continued service for three years, in which case no Member shall be re-eligible until he shall have remained out of office for one year.

4.

All General Meetings shall be held in some room within the building, and shall be summoned by notice in the Vestibule, and by advertisement in two of the Newspapers published in Bristol, to be inserted in one of such Newspapers, fourteen days, at least, prior to the day of Meeting. Such

Meetings shall have power to make Bye-Laws and Rules for the Government of the Members of the Institution, to appoint Fines and Penalties for the breach of any such Rules, and to alter and vary the rates of the Annual Subscription, and also such Rules and Penalties, from time to time, and if expedient, to dissolve the Society; but neither the present or any future Rules or Bye-laws, nor any Penalties, shall be varied or altered, neither shall any Bye-law be established, or Penalty appointed, unless intimation of an intention to propose the same shall have been given in the Notice of such Meeting; nor unless two-thirds of the persons present at two successive General Meetings to be held, after an interval of one Month, shall concur in the vote, establishing such variation, new Rule, or Penalty: nor shall the Society be dissolved, or this Regulation be varied, unless two-thirds, at least, of the entire number of the then existing Members, shall concur in the expediency of the measure at two similar successive General Meetings.

5.

No General Meeting shall be competent to transact any business other than that directed to be done at the Annual General Meeting, unless twenty-one Members be present.

6.

The President, or in his absence the Senior Vice-President, shall take the Chair, and preside

at all General Meetings; but if neither the President or any Vice-President be present, a Chairman shall be chosen from the Committee-men, if any be present, otherwise from the general body of the Subscribers; and at all General Meetings such questions as do not require the concurrence of a larger number of Members, shall be decided by a majority of votes of the persons present, including the Chairman, who, in case of an equality, shall have an additional or casting vote.

7.

A General Meeting of the Members shall be held annually, on the Second Thursday of February, at Twelve o'clock at noon, at which Meeting a Report of the Proceedings of the Committee during the past year shall be read; the Treasurer's Report, and Reports of Donations, laid before the Members; three Auditors of the Accounts appointed; the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary of Finance, for the ensuing year, elected; and the Vacancies in the Committe filled up by Ballot.

8.

In the Week preceding the Annual Meeting, a printed List of all the Members shall be sent to each Member, in which shall be specified the Officers of the preceding Year, with marks to distinguish those Members of the Committee

who are to retire by rotation. On this List, the Members present at the Annual Meeting are to mark the names of as many of those Members whom they deem eligible, as there are vacancies to be supplied. They shall deliver their Lists, folded up, to the Chairman of the Meeting, who shall then appoint Scrutineers to examine them; and those Members who have the greatest number of votes, shall be thereby elected as Members of the Committee.

9.

Ladies only shall be allowed to vote by Proxy; such Proxy to be in a form to be prescribed by the Committee, subjoined to the printed List of Members, and authenticated by the Signature of the Member by whom it shall be given.

10.

The majority of the Committee present at a Meeting regularly summoned, or any Fifteen Members, may, by a written Requisition, call a Special General Meeting of the Members on giving Fourteen Days Notice, as for the Annual Meeting, and stating the purpose of it.

CHAPTER IV.

COMMITTEE.

1.

The Committee shall meet on the first Thursday after the Annual Meeting, at one o'clock; and their subsequent Meetings shall be held at such times as they shall appoint, provided that in all events Meetings of the Committee shall be held quarterly, on the first Thursday in February, May, August, and November; seven days notice of the same being sent to each Member.

2.

At the Meeting of the Committee, held on the first Thursday after the Annual Meeting, they shall appoint Sub-Committees, and elect an Honorary Secretary for the ensuing year, who shall, by reason of his office, be a Member of the Committee.

3.

At the Quarterly Meeting of the Committee, held the first Thursday in February, the Auditors shall make their report of the Treasurer's Accounts; and at every Quarterly Meeting the Treasurer's Accounts shall be laid before the Committee.

4.

Any one of the official Members of the Committee, or any five of the ordinary Members, may, through the Secretary, call a Special Meeting of the Committee, on a week's notice.

5.

Five Members of the Committee shall be competent to transact the business of the Meeting, whether Quarterly or Special.

6.*

The Secretaries of the Philosophical and Literary Society shall be, in respect of their Office, Members of the Committee.

CHAPTER V.

SUB-COMMITTEES.

1.†

At the Meeting of the Committee held on the first Thursday after the Annual Meeting, they shall appoint Sub-Committees, consisting of not more than seven Members in each, and having the power to add to their body such other of the Members of the Institution as they may deem likely to aid in the specific object of the particular Sub-Committee. Three Members of the Sub-Committees shall be competent to transact the business at the Meetings thereof.

2.†

To the first Sub-Committee, of which the Treasurer and Secretary of Finance shall be special Members, shall be entrusted the superintendence of the Building when completed, and the Finances of the Institution;—other Sub-Committees shall have the superintendence of the Apparatus, and arrangements for the Lectures; the direction of the Natural History department; the regulation of the Reading Rooms; and the exhibition and preservation of Works of Art; either separately or united.

3.*

Each Sub-Committee shall keep regular minutes of its proceedings, and shall report the same at the next Meeting of the General Committee; and these Records, as well as those of the General Committee, shall be open for the information of the Members of the Institution.

4.*

The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretary of Finance, and Honorary Secretary, shall be, in respect of their Offices, Members of the standing Sub-Committees.

5.*

The Curator or his Assistant, upon the requisition of the Secretary or any three other Members

of any Sub-Committee, shall convene the same, giving at the least Twenty-four Hours previous Notice of the intended Meeting of such Sub-Committee, by a note to be sent to each Member, and also by a placard placed in the Vestibule; and no Sub-Committee shall meet without such notice, except in cases of urgent necessity, on which occasions the reason for dispensing therewith shall be specified in their Minutes.

CHAPTER VI.

LECTURES AND APPARATUS.

1.

All arrangements respecting the nature of Lectures, and the number of Courses to be delivered during the year, shall be left to the regulation of the Sub-Committee which shall be appointed for the purpose.

2.

Towards the preparation of a suitable Apparatus, Donations shall be received, a Record of which shall be inscribed in a Book appropriated to that purpose; and its further support shall be provided for, by the assignment of such proportion of the annual income of the Institution, as the General Committee shall from time to time judge expedient.

3.

The Gentlemen invited to deliver Lectures at the Institution, may be accommodated with the use of the Apparatus, under the direction of the Sub-Committee.

4.

Any Member may have the use of the Apparatus for experiments at the Institution, on a written order of the Sub-Committee for the purpose, after giving a sufficient deposit for injury which may be sustained by it; on condition that he shall replace every article in the same state in which it was received from the Curator, and that all expenses attendant on such experiments, and all loss or injury happening thereby to the property of the Institution, shall be paid by the Member to whom such an order has been granted.

CHAPTER VII.

MUSEUM.

1.

The Museum shall be under the direction of a Sub-Committee, especially appointed for that purpose.

2.

Towards defraying the original expenses of forming the Museum, pecuniary Donations shall be received, a Record of which shall be inscribed in a Book kept in the Museum; and its further support shall be provided for, by the assignment of such a proportion of the annual income of the Institution, as the General Committee shall from time to time judge expedient.

3.

All Donations shall be inscribed in a Book kept in the Museum for the purpose.

4.

Temporary or conditional deposits of Specimens tending to advance the knowledge of Natural History, shall be admitted, and an acknowledgment given of the same by the Sub-Committee.

5.†

A Curator shall be annually appointed by the Committee, at their Quarterly Meeting held on the first Thursday in February, who shall have the charge of the Museum; part of whose duty shall be to keep an arranged descriptive Catalogue, and to be in attendance when the Museum is open.

6.

The Museum shall be open three days in the

week to the Members, and to such other Persons as by the Rules of the Institution are admissible, whom they may introduce personally or by writing; the Visitors entering their names and places of abode in a book kept in the Museum for that purpose.

7

Every Member shall be answerable for any injury done to the Museum by himself, or by Visitors introduced by him.

8.

Lecturers at the Institution shall be permitted to use such illustrative Specimens as can be exhibited without injury; and persons not Members attending their Lectures shall be allowed to visit the Museum, so far as may be deemed necessary for the right understanding of the Lectures, under the regulations of the Sub-Committee.

9.

The Sub-Committee shall annually inspect the state of the Museum, and make a report of it to the General Committee.

CHAPTER VIII.

EXHIBITION ROOM.

1.

The Exhibition Room shall be open for the inspection of such works belonging to the Fine Arts and Antiquities, as may either be permanently presented to the Institution, or sent for the purpose of temporary Exhibition.

2.

The regulation of this department of the Institution shall be confided to a Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose, who shall make arrangements for the admission of those who are not Members, and shall be particularly charged to give every facility to the Artists and Students of Bristol and its vicinity.

3.

Every Member shall have free admission to the Exhibition Room, and the power of introducing Visitors, agreeably to the Rule in that respect, except when money is taken.

4.

Provision shall be made for the reception and preservation of Models, &c. in the Useful Arts.

CHAPTER IX.

READING ROOMS.

1.

A portion of the Annual Income of the Institution, not exceeding one-third, shall be appropriated to the Reading Rooms, to be expended at the discretion of the Sub-Committee appointed for the management of them.

2.

The leading object of the Reading Rooms shall be the diffusion of Literary and Scientific Information; but a small number of Newspapers may be introduced for the convenience of the Members, of which one Morning and one Evening London Paper, and one Bristol Paper, shall be regularly filed, bound, and preserved.

3.

The inner Reading Room shall be appropriated to the Journals of Science and Literature, and suitable Works of Reference; and Regulations shall be made to secure the Readers there from interruption.

4.

Donations or Loans of Maps, Plans, Works

of Reference, &c. shall be entered in a book kept in the Reading Rooms. For such Loans, acknowledgments shall be given by the Sub-Committee.

5.

Manuscripts and other Literary Curiosities presented to the Institution, shall be carefully preserved in the inner Reading Room, until some more appropriate place is provided for them.

6.†

The Reading Rooms shall be opened to the Members every day, except Sundays, Christmas Day, and Good Friday, from Nine in the Morning, until Ten at Night.

7.

Members may introduce Strangers resident beyond the distance of ten miles from the city, to the Reading Room, as Visitors, by a personal or written introduction, subject to such restrictions, in respect of time and other circumstances, as the Sub-Committee may direct; but the names of the Visitors, and of the Members introducing them, shall be entered in a book kept for that purpose in the Reading Room.

8.

Persons not Members, who are not permanent Residents in Bristol or its immediate vicinity,

may be admitted by the Sub-Committee, to the Reading Rooms, for a period not exceeding Twelve Months, nor less than Six, at the rate of Two Guineas per Annum.

CHAPTER X.

PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.

1.

A Society shall be formed for the culture of Science and Literature, consisting of Members of the Institution, who shall be admitted without election, on their assenting to the Rules of the Society; of Honorary Members elected by the Society; and a number of Associates, not exceeding ten, being inhabitants of Bristol and its vicinity, who are not Members of the Institution, but who may be deemed by the Society qualified to promote its objects, and to join in its discussions.

2.

The Society shall meet at stated periods for the Reading of Papers, and for Literary and Scientific Discussion.

3.

The Regulations of the Society shall be formed

by the Society itself, reporting its Proceedings from time to time to the General Committee for their approval.

4.*

The Honorary Members of the Philosophical and Literary Society, not resident within six Miles of Bristol, and the Associates of the same Society, shall personally have free admission to all parts of the Institution, except when Money is taken; subject at all times to the special Regulations already made, or hereafter to be appointed, for each of its Departments.

Richard Short, Printer, 35, Bridge-Street, Bristol.